

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SP-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SAJ-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01

NIC-01 FEA-02 INT-08 L-03 /156 W
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R 141000Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6195

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 1019

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, AR, ECON

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ARGENTINE ECONOMIC MISSION

REF: A) BUENOS AIRES 599; B) MOSCOW 6888

AND 7007

1. SUMMARY. HIGH-LEVEL ARGENTINE MISSION WHICH VISITED PRAGUE MAY 10-12 (HOLIDAY WEEKEND HERE) WAS GIVEN WARM OFFICIAL WELCOME, SIGNED SEVERAL NEW BILATERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS, AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES OF CZECHOSLOVAK TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ARGENTINE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. ARGENTINE

MISSION SPENT WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PROFITABLE TWO DAYS IN PRAGUE MAY 10-12 DURING WHICH THEY MET WITH MEMBERS OF CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP--PARTY LEADER HUSAK, PRIME MINISTECKSTROUGAL, FEDERAL ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN INDRA, AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE BARCEK-- AND SIGNED A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS ON BILATERAL SCIENTIFIC, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TECHNICAL, AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION. MISSION, COMPOSED

OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, PARLIAMENT, ARMED FORCES, LABOR, BUSINESS, AND PRESS, WAS LED BY PERON'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, MINISTER OF ECONOMY JOSE GELBARD, AND INCLUDED CHAIRMAN OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES RAUL LASTIRI, MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE LEOPOLDO TETTMANTI, PRESIDENT OF GENERAL ECONOMIC CONFEDERATION JULIUS BRONER, AND SECRETARY OF GENERAL CONFERENCE OF LABOR OTTO CALACE. CHARACTERIZED AS "OPENING NEW STAGE IN TRADITIONAL CZECHOSLOVAK-ARGENTINE COOPERATION", VISIT RECEIVED EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE AND, THOUGH THEY ARRIVED ON LONG HOLIDAY WEEKEND, VISITORS WERE WELL RECEIVED BY CZECHOSLOVAK LEADERSHIP. ARGENTINES CONFERRED ORDER OF MAY REVOLUTION ON HUSAK, AND RECEIVED ORDERS OF WHITE LION FOR GELBARD AND LASTRINI--WHO TO OUR RECOLLECTION ARE ONLY VISITING WESTERN OFFICIALS TO BE SO HONORED SINCE 1968 INVASION.

3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON VISIT, EXPRESSED CZECHOSLOVAK WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN ARGENTINA'S THREE-YEAR RESTORATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WITH DELIVERIES OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT ON CREDIT AND WITH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. (AMOUNT OR TERMS OF CREDIT INVOLVED NOT MENTIONED.) COMMUNIQUE LISTED FOLLOWING AGREEMENTS SIGNED DURING MISSION'S STAY IN PRAGUE:
(AL SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL;
(B) PROTOCOL ON FIRST MEETING OF MIXEC CZECHOSLOVAK-ARGENTINE COMMISSION SET UP IN 1973 TRADE AGREEMENT;
(C) PROTOCOL ON COOPERATION IN FIELD OF ENERGY;
(D) AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAK AND ARGENTINE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE: AND
(E) CONTRACT FOR CZECHOSLOVAK ENTERPRISE SKODAEXPORT TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT FOR AGUA DE TORRO HYDROELECTRIC PLANT.

4. COMMUNIQUE CONTAINED GENERAL CONDEMNATION OF IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND NEO-COLONIALISM, AND FOREIGN INTERFERENCE, BUT DID NOT DISCUSS SPECIFIC FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. IN NEWS CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, GELBARD SAID THAT ARGENTINA'S RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAD DECLINED AFTER PERON'S OVERTHROW IN 1955 BUT WERE NOW IMPROVING.
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HE NOTED THAT MISSION HAD STOPPED IN CUBA ON ITS WAY TO EUROPE FOR USEFUL TALKS ON COOPERATION AND THAT PERON HAD SAID THAT CUBA SHOULD BE BROUGHT BACK INTO LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

5. MISSION LEFT PRAGUE MAY 12 FOR BUDAPEST.
SHERER

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